

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-03 L-03 DOTE-00 COME-00 OFA-01 EB-07

INT-05 DLOS-04 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /076 W

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R 032010Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6895

INFO COMDT COGARD WASHDC

CCGDSEVEN MIAMI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1085

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, BF

SUBJECT: SPINY LOBSTER DEMARCHE

REF: STATE 155243

1. IN A WORD, THE DEMARCH DELIVERED TODAY TO PM PINDLING WENT VERY WELL.

2. AFTER EXCHANGE OF PLEASANTRIES CENTERED AROUND PM'S RECENT TRIP TO LONDON (PM SEEMED RELAXED AND FRIENDLY THROUGHOUT DISCUSSION), I MADE PRESENTATION AS INSTRUCTED IN REFTEL.

3. PM INDICATED THAT HE HAD BEEN MADE AWARE OF THE PROBLEM THROUGH MY DISCUSSION WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CABINET. HE SAID THAT WE WOULD SHORTLY BE IN RECEIPT OF A COMMUNICATION FROM THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RESPONDING TO OUR COMMUNICATION OF APRIL 2, 1975. (IN CALLING MINEXTAFF ADDERLEY TO INFORM HIM OF MY HAVING BEEN INSTRUCTED TO PRESENT A DEMARCHE TO THE PM, HE TOO REVEALED THAT WE WOULD BE RECEIVING A RESPONSE TO OUR
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APRIL NOTE.) AS SUBSEQUENTLY BECAME CLEAR, HOWEVER, THIS

NOTE WILL NOT REPEAT NOT REVEAL BASIC SUBSTANTIVE POSITION OF GCOB, BUT APPARENTLY WILL DEAL WITH SOME OF THE OTHER ASPECTS TOUCHED ON IN OUR NOTE, E.G. WHETHER THE GCOB IS WILLING TO UNDERTAKE DISCUSSIONS, HOW GCOB VIEWS THE DEFINITION OF ITS CONTINENTAL SHELF AREAS, ETC.

4. PM THEN TURNED TO THAT PART OF MY PRESENTATION WHICH DEALT WITH THE POSSIBLE REQUIREMENT FOR A MORATORIUM. IN PRESENTING THIS ISSUE, I HAD STATED THAT WE STILL HOPED THAT TALKS COULD BEGIN AT ONCE AND THAT PERHAPS THE INTERESTS OF BOTH SIDES, WHICH I CONSIDERED TO BE COMPATIBLE, COULD BE RESOLVED AND REFLECTED IN AN AGREEMENT PRIOR TO AUGUST 1. HOWEVER, IF THIS WERE NOT POSSIBLE, THEM INTERIM MEASURE WOULD BE REQUIRED, SUCH AS A MORATORIUM. I REFERRED TO OUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE CANADIANS IN RELATION TO US LEGISLATION. PM EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THIS CANADIAN PRECEDENT. (COMMENT: THIS CLEARLY WAS AN ASPECT HE HAD NOT HEARD ABOUT BEFORE DESPITE MY HAVING RELATED IT TO ADDERLEY AND DEPRIMIN HANNA ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS. I HAD THE FEELING THAT THIS WAS A POINT HE MIGHT WELL BE PREPARED TO UTILIZE IN CABINET DISCUSSIONS IF THIS WERE NECESSARY.)

5. THE PM WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WONDERED WHETHER A MORATORIUM WOULD REALLY BE REQUIRED. WOULD IT NOT BE POSSIBLE, HE QUERIED, TO RESOLVE ANY OUTSTANDING ISSUES BETWEEN US IN FIVE DAYS OF CONCENTRATED DISCUSSIONS? I RESPONDED THAT WE WERE MORE THAN WILLING TO ENGAGE IN SUCH CONCENTRATED DISCUSSIONS, REMINDING HIM THAT WE HAD BEEN AWAITING A GO AHEAD FROM GCOB SINCE OUR PROPOSAL FOR SUCH DISCUSSIONS MADE LAST DECEMBER.

6. THE PM SAID THAT HE WOULD PUT THE ISSUE TO THE CABINET AND WOULD GET BACK TO ME BY NO LATER THAT NEXT WEEK. IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER, HE ASKED FOR MY PERSONAL REACTION TO CERTAIN PRINCIPLES WHICH THE GCOB MIGHT WISH TO ADVANCE IN THE COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS WITH US, INDICATING THAT THESE WE
E NOT NECESSARILY A COMPLETE LIST, BUT
REPRESENTED THOSE ITEMS WHICH HE PERSONALLY THOUGHT
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IMPORTANT. HE THEN ADVANCED THREE SPECIFIC POINTS:

- A) AGREEMENT ON US ASSISTANCE IN ENFORCEMENT OF GCOB LAW,
- B) THE LANDING OF THE CATCH IN BAHAMIAN PORTS, AND
- C) RECIPROCAL RIGHTS FOR BAHAMIAN FISHERMEN OFF FLORIDA COAST.

7. I RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT THESE MATTERS ON WHICH I COULD ONLY VOICE MY OWN PERSONAL REACTION SINCE I DID NOT HAVE DEFINITIVE WASHINGTON VIEW TO OFFER TO HIM. I SAID THAT ON WORKING OUT COOPERATIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT ARRANGEMENT, I THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE FEASIBLE. I REMARKED IN THIS CONNECTION ON THE EXCELLENT COOPERATION WHICH I FELT THE US COAST GUARD HAD BEEN PROVIDING, IN PARTICULAR OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS.

8. WITH REGARD TO THE PROPOSAL TO LAND THE CATCH AT BAHAMIAN PORTS, I ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION, SPECIFICALLY WOULD THIS INVOLVE INSPECTION, OR DID PM HAVE SOMETHING BEYOND IN MIND? PINDLING RESPONDED THAT INITIALLY THE PROCEDURE WOULD LARGELY BE LIMITED TO INSPECTION FOR PURPOSES OF DETERMINING QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF THE CATCH. HOWEVER, AS IT BECAME FEASIBLE TO DO SO, IT WOULD BE GCOB INTENTION THAT THE CATCH BE "PROCESSED" IN BAHAMIAN FACILITIES WITH THE FINISHED PRODUCT THEN PROVIDED TO THE US. HE IMMEDIATELY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT BAHAMIAN CURRENT CAPACITY IN THIS REGARD WAS VERY LIMITED AND ACCORDINGLY INITIAL LANDING AT BAHAMIAN PORTS WOULD LARGELY BE FOR QUANTITY AND QUALITY CONTROL CHECKING PURPOSES. HOWEVER, HE HOPED THAT OVER TIME GCOB CAPACITY FOR PROCESSING LOBSTERS WOULD INCREASE. HE NOTED THAT THIS WOULD BE AN ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO BE DERIVED BY THE ECONOMY AND WAS CONSISTENT WITH HIS GOVERNMENT'S ATTEMPT AT IMPROVING AND DIVERSIFYING BAHAMIAN ECONOMIC BASE. IN RESPONSE TO THIS POINT, I SAID THAT THE ISSUE WAS ONE ON WHICH I WAS NOT EXPERT. I COULD, FOR EXAMPLE, IMAGINE ISSUES WHICH MIGHT BE RAISED BY US LOBSTER PROCESSING INDUSTRY IN FLORIDA. NEVERTHELESS, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, I THOUGHT SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES THAT HE SUGGESTED OUGHT TO BE FEASIBLE, CONFIDENTIAL

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ALTHOUGH I EXPLICITLY AGAIN CAVEATED THIS BY SAYING THAT WASHINGTON MIGHT HAVE A DIFFERENT VIEW AND, IN WHICH CASE, I WOULD HAVE TO REVERSE THIS PERSONAL EXPRESSION.

9. WITH REGARD TO HIS FINAL POINT, NAMELY, ON THE ISSUE OF RECIPROCITY, I SAID THAT I HAD BEEN AWARE THAT THEIR LEGISLATION EMBODIED A REQUIREMENT FOR SUCH RECIPROCITY AND, AGAIN SPEAKING PERSONALLY, THIS SEEMED TO ME TO BE AN EQUITABLE ARRANGEMENT.

10. PINDLING MUSED ALOUD ON THE QUESTION OF TIMING, NOTING THAT NEXT WEEK THEY CELEBRATE THEIR INDEPENDENCE DAY AND THAT THIS MIGHT DISTRACT THEM FROM OTHER BUSINESS. NEVERTHELESS, HE COMMENTED TO RODNEY BAIN, SECRETARY TO THE CABINET, (WHO WAS THE ONLY OTHER INDIVIDUAL PRESENT) THAT

IT STILL SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO SCHEDULE THIS SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION WITH HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES AND GET BACK TO ME NEXT WEEK. HE REPEATED THAT HIS HOPE WAS THAT THE DEFINITIVE AGREEMENT COULD BE WORKED OUT ALONG THE LINES HE HAD SUGGESTED, BUT THAT IF A CONCENTRATED EFFORT TO DO SO BEFORE AUGUST 1 PROVED UNSUCCESSFUL WE COULD THEN CONSIDER OTHER "INTERIM MEASURES". IN CONNECTION WITH THIS LATTER POINT, I SAID, "YOU MEAN SUCH AS A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM?" AND PM RESPONDED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

11. COMMENT: I DO NOT THINK WE COULD HAVE REALISTICALLY EXPECTED A MORE RESPONSIVE REACTION. IT IS CLEAR THAT IN ADDITION TO ECONOMIC BENEFITS WHICH HE SEEKS, PINDLING REQUIRES SOME OBVIOUS POLITICAL QUID TO WHICH HE CAN POINT IN AGREEING TO CONTINUED US FISHING ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF. HE IS UNDER NO ILLUSIONS AS TO HOW EXTENSIVE A PROCESSING INDUSTRY THE BAHAMIANS NOW HAVE. WHILE I THINK IT REASONABLE TO ANTICIPATE THAT, WERE WE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE THREE PRINCIPLES HE SET FORTH, GCOB WOULD MAKE AN EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT OF A BAHAMIAN PROCESSING CAPABILITY, GIVEN THE WAY THINGS MOVE HERE, THIS IS UNLIKELY TO HAPPEN VERY RAPIDLY. OVER TIME, HOWEVER, THE BAHAMIANS WOULD CUT INTO CURRENT US PROCESSING CAPABILITIES. THE ISSUE WE WILL BE FACED WITH, ASSUMING WE AGREE TO THIS PROPOSAL, IS DEFINING THE SPECIFIC TERMS UNDER WHICH

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(A) THE INITIAL INSPECTION OF THE CATCH FOR QUANTITY AND QUALITY WILL BE CONDUCTED SO AS TO ASSURE THAT THEY ARE NOT UNDULY BURDENSOME TO US FISHERMEN AND (B) THE ANTICIPATED PHASING IN OF THE BAHAMIAN CAPACITY FOR PROCESSING WILL APPLY TO US FISHERMEN.

12. THE QUESTION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT IS A MATTER WHICH WE ANTICIPATED WOULD AT SOME POINT BE RAISED WITH US AND SO NOTED IN OUR OCTOBER 14, 1974 AIRGRAM (NASSAU A-255). WHILE I BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO WORK OUT AN ACCEPTABLE ARRANGEMENT SINCE THE LARGE US FISHING INTERESTS ARE RESPONSIBLE AND LAW ABIDING. HOWEVER, THIS COULD BE TRICKY INsofar AS ONE ELEMENT OF FLORIDA-BASED FISHERMEN ARE FAR LESS RESPONSIBLE, NAMELY, A PORTION OF THE CUBAN PAROLEES AND CUBAN-AMERICANS WHO FISH IN BAHAMIAN WATERS. EVEN ASSUMING WE CAN WORK OUT AN ARRANGEMENT WHICH IS EQUITABLE AND ACCEPTABLE TO LARGER FLORIDA-BASED FISHING INTERESTS, MONITORING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SMALL FISHING CRAFT MAY WELL CREATE PROBLEMS. NEVERTHELESS, THESE ARE SIMPLY PROBLEMS WHICH WE HAVE TO FACE UP TO AND SOLVE IF WE EXPECT OUR LARGER INTEREST OF MAINTAINING ACCESS TO

THE SPINY LOBSTER IN THESE WATERS IS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED.

13. WHILE I WILL, OF COURSE, REPORT AS SOON AS WE
RECEIVE THE PROMISED RESPONSE FROM THE PM, I WOULD HOPE
THAT ALL INTERESTED WASHINGTON AGENCIES WOULD BEGIN AT
ONCE TO ANALYZE PROBLEMS AND ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH
APPROACH OUTLINED BY PINDLING. I WOULD WISH TO BE IN
A POSITION TO RESPOND RAPIDLY ONCE WE RECEIVE AGREEMENT
TO UNDERTAKE TALKS AND WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MY DUCKS,
IF NOT LOBSTERS, IN A ROW. FINALLY, I WILL FORWARD
COMMUNICATION FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY REFERRED TO PARA 3 ABOVE
AS SOON AS RECEIVED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONTINENTAL SHELF, FISHING AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NASSAU01085
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750232-0872
From: NASSAU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750788/aaaadaxx.tel
Line Count: 236
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 155243
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPINY LOBSTER DEMARCHE
TAGS: EFIS, BF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006